GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:48
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
BELOW POVERTY LINE
DUKHA BHAGAT;HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sixty per cent of the people of the country are still living Below Poverty Line,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that poverty has increased in the country during the economic reforms period from 1991 to 2001;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the manner in which Government plan to bring people above poverty line?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY O PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTE OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENEGRY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 48 FOR ANSWER ON 21.11.2001 REGARDING BELOW POVERTY LINE BY SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY AND PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

(a) : The Planning Commission estimates percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey (NSS) Organisation. The last such survey was conducted in the 55th Round of the NSS covering the period July 1999 to June 2000. On the basis of the 30-day recall tabulation in the Key Results of the 55th Round large sample survey of Household Consumer Expenditure in India carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation, the percentage of population living below the poverty line in the country as a whole in 1999-2000 is estimated as 26.10%.

(b) : Does not arise.

(c) and (d) : Since 1991, the estimates of poverty have been made for the years 1993- 94 and 1999-2000 based on the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of the 50th and 55th Round respectively. The estimate of poverty calculated from the 50th Round large sample survey on consumer expenditure conducted by the NSSO was 35.97% for the year 1993-94. The data from the latest large survey of the 55th Round on a 30-day basis indicate a poverty ratio of 26.1% for 1999-2000.

(e) : There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are:
(i) acceleration of economic growth,
(ii) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and
(iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets- building for the poor.